

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AGR-20 AID-20 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11

FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12

SPC-03 CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 STR-08 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 L-03 NSC-07 PA-04 PRS-01 SS-20 USIA-15

NSCE-00 /179 R

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P R 182321Z MAR 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USLO PEKING PRIORITY

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 054117

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, CH

SUBJECT: TCK WHEAT SMUT PROBLEM

1. DEPARTMENT AND USDA OFFICIALS MET ON MARCH 15 TO DISCUSS TCK SMUT ISSUE--A PROBLEM WHICH ALL AGREED COULD HAVE POTENTIALLY SERIOUS IMPLICATIONS FOR FUTURE US WHEAT SALES TO THE PRC. WHILE RECOGNIZING THAT ACTIONS USG CAN TAKE ARE LIMITED, STATE AND USDA AGREED THAT IT WOULD BE USEFUL FOR A TEAM OF PRC TECHNICIANS (AND HOPEFULLY POLICY LEVEL TYPES) TO VISIT THE US TO OBSERVE METHODS OF SHIPPING US WHEAT--INCLUDING INSPECTION PROCEDURES, ACTIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN TAKEN BY PRIVATE INDUSTRY AND USG TO COMBAT TCK PROBLEM, AND CURRENT RESEARCH ACTIVITIES IN THIS FIELD. ALSO, A GROUP CONSISTING OF SCIENTISTS

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AND USDA OFFICIALS FAMILIAR WITH WHEAT TRADE COULD BE SENT

TO PRC UNDER EITHER GOVERNMENT OR PRIVATE AUSPICES. WE RECOGNIZE CHINESE HAVE NOT RESPONDED TO PREVIOUS SUGGESTIONS ALONG THESE LINES, BUT BELIEVE THE PROPOSALS SHOULD BE ADVANCED AGAIN.

2. SINCE PRC MAY PREFER TO CONTINUE HANDLING THIS QUESTION IN PRIVATE CHANNELS, USDA AND STATE DECIDED THAT THESE VISITS SHOULD BE PROPOSED IN THE FIRST INSTANCE BY THE GRAIN SHIPPERS INVOLVED (CARGILL, DREYFUS, AND COOK). USDA CONTACTED ALL THREE FIRMS OVER THE WEEKEND AND ALL

CONCURRED IN THESE PROPOSALS AND INDICATED THAT THEY WOULD INSTRUCT THEIR REPRESENTATIVES TO RAISE THEM SEPARATELY WITH CEROILFOOD. (COOK MAY RAISE THE MATTER BY TELEGRAM TO HEAD OF CEROILFOOD SINCE THAT FIRM DOES NOT PRESENTLY HAVE A REPRESENTATIVE IN PEKING.)

3. STATE AND USDA BELIEVE THAT USG SHOULD FOLLOW UP PROMPTLY WITH THE CHINESE. WE PLAN TO CALL IN PRCLO ACTING CHIEF HAN HSU AND COMMERCIAL COUNSELOR CHANG TSIEN-HUA SOON (PROBABLY WEDNESDAY) TO MAKE FOLLOWING MAIN POINTS: (A) USG IS AWARE OF, AND CONCERNED OVER, TCK PROBLEM; (B) WE SUPPORT SUGGESTIONS MADE BY COMPANIES FOR EXCHANGE OF TECHNICAL GROUPS; AND (C) WE ARE PREPARED TO DISCUSS THIS ISSUE WITH YOU IN DETAIL, IF YOU WISH. (LAST POINT WILL PROVIDE PRC WITH OPPORTUNITY TO BEGIN A GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT DIALOGUE ON THIS ISSUE IF THEY ARE SO INCLINED.)

4. STATE AND USDA BELIEVE THAT AFTER RECEIVING A REPORT ON WASHINGTON MEETING USLO SHOULD SEEK APPOINTMENTS WITH CEROILFOOD AND MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE TO MAKE THE SAME POINTS.

5. ANY FURTHER VIEWS OR INFORMATION USLO HAS ON THIS SUBJECT SHOULD BE SENT PROMPTLY SO THAT IT CAN BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT FOR MEETING WITH PRCLO. KISSINGER

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